

# Gresham Downtown



1.6 miles • 3377 steps • difficulty • 45.502, -122.426

## GRESHAM: DOWNTOWN

Gresham was named in 1884 after U.S. Postmaster General Walter Quinton Gresham. Since then the small community on the banks of Johnson Creek has grown to Oregon's fourth largest city. This walk explores its revitalized downtown and MAX connections. With MAX access and portals to the Springwater Corridor Trail, Gresham is an easy place to explore while leaving your car at home.

Begin at the Cleveland Avenue MAX Station near Liberty Avenue. Walk on the north side of the MAX tracks west toward Cleveland Avenue. Look across the tracks to the Chestnut Lane Assisted Living Community, which serves deaf and deaf-blind individuals from across the United States. Turn right on Cleveland and then left on 8th. Walk west on 8th, passing Alpha High School, an alternative school that offers a school-to-work curriculum; Cedar Neighborhood Park; and the East County Health, Aging and Disability Service Center, home to the Community Senior Center and Loaves and Fishes.

Continue west on 8th through the Gresham Central Transit Center. Cross Hood Avenue, heading south (left) on Hood. Cross 10th Drive and the MAX tracks and then turn right onto the promenade that runs parallel and south of the tracks. The promenade is a joint project of TriMet, which donated the land; the City of Gresham, which maintains the facilities; and the Gresham Central Apartments, which maintains the grass, sweeps the walks and empties trash cans. From the promenade, turn left on Roberts, right on 5th Street and left on Main.

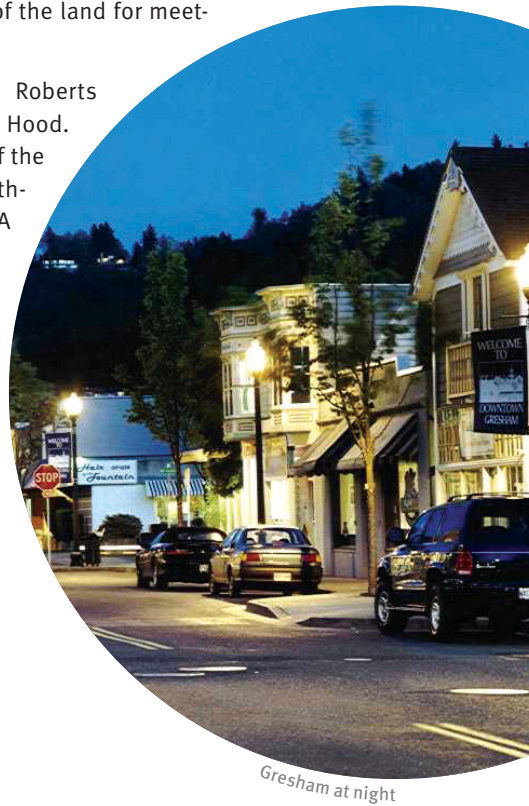
Like many commercial centers along the MAX line, Gresham's downtown is a place where people live, work and recreate without getting into a car. The Historic Downtown Plan has been in effect since 1993, revitalizing a downtown that had languished post World War II, but is now revived with shops, restaurants, housing and parks. The plan changed zoning to encourage mixed-use development, pedestrian

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friendly buildings and a strong orientation to the light rail line and bus transit. Old storefronts commingle with newer buildings. Don't miss the Gresham Pioneer Museum at 410 N. Main, housed in an old Carnegie library that was superseded in 1990 by the new library, a few blocks away at 385 NW Miller Ave.

From Main, turn left onto Powell Boulevard; as you walk one block, you skirt the northern edge of Main City Park, a large park bordering Johnson Creek. The land was once called Camp Ground, after the Portland Methodists' use of the land for meetings in the 1880s.

From Powell, turn left onto Roberts Avenue, right on 3rd and left on Hood. Here is visible the future site of the Center for the Arts, at the south-east corner of 3rd and Hood. A Pedestrian Plaza will be home to outdoor events. Continue north on Hood, cross the MAX tracks and turn right on 10th to end at the Central Transit Center. Here is an open air concrete living room created by Mount Hood Community College art students, a great place to relax after your walk.



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### A Rich Rail History

Parts of the Eastside MAX line travel the same right of way as the Mount Hood Railway and Power Company interurban rail line, which ran between Northeast Portland's Montavilla neighborhood and Bull Run, east of Sandy.

The old interurban right of way is used by the MAX between 99th Avenue and Burnside in Portland to Gresham's Cleveland MAX Station. Diesel freight service continued on the line through Gresham into the 1980s, when it was converted to a right of way for the MAX. The MAX opened in 1986 after four years of construction. The MAX Blue Line to Portland was one of the first modern light rail systems in the nation and began our region's shift toward innovative land-use and transportation planning.

To view Gresham's Significant Trees, stop at Gresham City Hall (1333 NW Eastman Parkway) to pick up a brochure in the Department of Environmental Services. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



MAX in Gresham





